

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2873

VIENNA FOR LEDSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS IN ATHENS ON VIENNA TALKS

REF: ATHENS 2833 (NOTAL)

1. THE MAIN IMPRESSION GAINED BY THE GOG FROM THE PRE-VIENNA VISITS TO ATHENS BY THE GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATORS AND BY UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CYPRUS DE CUELLAR, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO GREEK MFA CYPRUS DESK OFFICER JOHN BOURLOYANNIS, IS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL WANT TO KEEP THE "NEGOTIATING MECHANISM" ALIVE THIS TIME, EVEN THOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE MAY BE LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE RESULTING FROM THIS COMING WEEK OF CONTACTS IN VIENNA. IN REVIEWING WITH AN EMBOFF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOG REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GROUP OF GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATORS
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HEADED BY TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS, AND THE SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH DECUELLAR, BOURLOYANNIS STATED THAT IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO EXPECT MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT VIENNA ITSELF, BUT THAT NEITHER SIDE WANTED TO BE ACCUSED OF TORPEDOING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. PAPADOPOULOS HAD MADE CLEAR, THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID, THAT HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO PAPERING OVER A "COMPLETE DISASTER" BY ISSUING A BLAND COMMUNIQUE, BUT THAT EVEN IF THE WORST SHOULD OCCUR

AT VIENNA THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WOULD SEEK TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS ALIVE SO THAT IT COULD RESUME AFTER THE EASTER RECESS.

2. THE TURKS, BOURLOYANNIS CONTINUED, HAD MADE A COMMITMENT TO BOTH WALDHEIM AND CLIFFORD TO NEGOTIATE IN A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL. WHILE THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE TOO FORTHCOMING (AND THE GOG DID NOT EXPECT TO SEE CONCRETE PROGRESS UNTIL AFTER THE TURKISH ELECTIONS WHICH THE GOG SEES LIKELY AS OCCURRING JUNE 5), THE TURKS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE ONUS FOR CAUSING AN IMMEDIATE IMPASSE IN VIENNA. THEY WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE "UNREASONABLE", HE SAID, BUT THEY HAD TO OPERATE WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE UNDERSTANDINGS WITH WALDHEIM AND CLIFFORD. FURTHERMORE, HE NOTED, THE TURKS ARE FEELING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE EMBARGO, AND NOW WANT TO CONVEY A CREDITABLE IMAGE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS THROUGH THEIR BEHAVIOR AT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS SENSE, BOURLOYANNIS ADDED, THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF LEDSKY IN VIENNA WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

3. BOURLOYANNIS SAID PAPADOPOULOS' OPENING STATEMENT WOULD LIKELY BE ALONG THE LINES OF MAKARIOS' PRESENTATION AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING WITH DENKTASH. THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS WILL HAVE A MAP TO PRESENT ON THE TERRITORIAL ASPECT. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE BIZONAL IN NATURE AND SHOW TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE. OF COURSE, HE UNDERLINED, THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE JUST AN OPENING POSITION FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WILL RESPOND WITH SOMETHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE 32.8 PERCENT FIGURE WHICH DENKTASH HAD MENTIONED AT HIS MEETING WITH MAKARIOS. ONCE THESE TWO POSITIONS

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ARE IN THE OPEN, THEN THE HARD BARGAINING, HOPEFULLY, WOULD BEGIN.

4. BOURLOYANNIS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT WHAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS MIGHT HAVE IN STORE ON THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. IF, HE UNDERLINED, THESE PROPOSALS PROVED TO BE WHAT THE TURKISH PRESS HAS REPORTED (I.E., TWO SEPARATE PARLIAMENTS, TWO PRIME MINISTERS, THE RIGHT FOR EACH COMMUNITY TO JOIN ITS RESPECTIVE MOTHERLAND, THE REJECTION OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES IN FAVOR OF GUARANTEES BY TURKEY AND GREECE, ETC) THEY WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO CREATING TWO SEPARATE STATES. IF THESE SHOULD PROVE TO BE THE TURKISH PROPOSALS, BOURLOYANNIS WARNED, THEY WOULD BE VERY DISRUPTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE, WHILE REJECTING THEM, WOULD DO SO IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO CLOSE OUT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

5. BOURLOYANNIS SUMMARIZED THAT THE GOG DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME FROM THE VIENNA INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, BUT IT DOES FORESEE THIS ROUND CONTINUING IN NICOSIA AFTER THE EASTER BREAK. DEPENDING

ON THE RESULT OF THE TURKISH ELECTON, EVENTUALLY SOME PROGRESS
MAY BE FORTHCOMING LATER. THE GOG'S POSITION CONTINUED TO BE
"FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOT POSITIONS, HE CONCLUDED.
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